

REMARKS

Claims 31-49 are pending. The specification has is objected to because of incomplete reference relating to the parent applications of the instant application. The specification has been amended to update the section on reference to related applications, and as such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the specification.

The Examiner has indicated that the cited art in U.S. Patent No. 6,626,873 - the parent application - has been considered, and requested that Applicants submit a corresponding PTO-1449 form. Applicants wish to point out that an information disclosure statement and PTO-1449 form were mailed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 9, 2004 (copies enclosed). Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the instant application. Copies of any listed documents will gladly be provided at the Examiner's request.

The Office Action indicates that the oath or declaration is defective. During a conversation between the Examiner and Applicants' attorney, Peter Shen, on October 27, 2004, the Examiner indicated that this objection was issued in error and can be ignored by Applicants.

The pending claims are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over certain claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,706,024; 6,626,873; 6,582,719; 6,106,505; 6,083,208; 5,772,640 and U.S. Application No. 09/746,670. In response, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer that, with respect to each of these patent documents, disclaims the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent

granted on the instant application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term defined in 35 U.S.C. §§ 154 to 156 and 173. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of double-patenting be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments and remarks herein be made of record. Applicants believe that in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the claims are in condition for allowance, and accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections. An allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Lisa B. Kole

Lisa B. Kole
Patent Office Reg. No. 35,225

by:


Peter J. Shen
Patent Office Reg. No. 52,217

Attorneys for Applicants
(212) 408-2500

Enclosures